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which they can reasonably complain, I have full confidence in the wisdom of Parliament, the great Council of the Nation.

Being firmly of opinion, that the total change in the domestic government and foreign policy of the country, which it is the declared object of your petition to accomplish, would only serve to increase the dangers against which we have to contend; I should be wanting to myself, and to the great interests committed to my charge, if I did not steadily persevere in these endeavours which appear to me best calculated to support the just rights of the nation abroad, and to preserve inviolate the constitution at home.

These endeavours can only be attended with success, when seconded by the zeal and loyalty of his Majesty's people, upon which I shall continue to place the strongest reliance.

LIVERPOOL PETITION, FOR A REPEAL OF
THE ORDERS IN COUNCIL

TO the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Merchants, Traders, and other Inhabitants of the town of Liverpool;

Showeth,

That your petitioners are compelled by the most urgent necessity, to lay their distresses and grievances before your honourable House.

That the general depression of the commerce and manufactures of the country has been particularly felt by the town and port of Liverpool; that the trade has rapidly declined; and that the more laborious part of the inhabitants, consisting of shipwrights, rope-makers, sail makers, carpenters, porters, carters, and labourers, with their numerous families, are reduced to a state of unexampled suffering and distress.

That your petitioners have heard with surprise and indignation, that statements have been made tending to keep your honourable House, and the country at large, in ignorance of the real state of this populous town, and denying facts which are but too grievously notorious to every inhabitant of the place.

That it is not true, as your petitioners understand it has been publicly represented, that there was not more than three to four thousand persons whose necessities

entitled them to support and assistance from a public subscription of the inhabitants entered into for that purpose.

That it is not true, that not a single shipwright is out of employ who is willing to work.

That the fact is, that the distresses of the labouring part of the community and their families having rendered relief indispensably necessary, a public subscription was entered into for that object in the month of December last, by which nearly 16 000 persons were in one week relieved.

That your petitioners compute the number of persons, so receiving relief, to have been at least one sixth part of the present population of the town.

That the falsehood of the assertion, that there is no want of employ for those who are willing to work, is apparent through the whole town of Liverpool, amidst all its docks, on all its quays, and in every street, where numbers of industrious mechanics, many of whom are free burgesses of the town, are seen without employment; whilst others are compelled, by their necessities, to solicit in the vicinity of the town for charitable aid.

That in addition to the want of employ, the distressed situation of the town is aggravated by the present high and rapidly increasing price of all the necessaries of life; from which evil if some relief cannot be obtained by the speedy interference of your honourable House, your petitioners cannot but apprehend the most alarming and fatal consequences.

That it appears to your petitioners to be as impious as it is unjust, to attribute the distresses which affect the country principally to the dispensations of Providence, as to the productions of the soil, or to any other cause which the interference of your honourable House, in conjunction with the other branches of the Legislature, may not in a great degree remove.

That your petitioners have heard with real alarm, that a high and confidential servant of the Crown did, in the presence of his Majesty's Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of a respectable deputation from the inhabitants of a large manufacturing town, lately make use of language which appears to your petitioners, from the time and occasion on which it was introduced, to develop the views and intentions of Ministers more decisively than thousands of state papers, and public documents, and shows that they are prepared to risk the

very existence of the country in the farther prosecution of measures, which have already reduced it to its present unexampled state of suffering.

That your petitioners cannot but avow to your honourable House their most solemn convictions that the distresses of the country are primarily occasioned by the present ruinous and long protracted war, by the sacrifice of the manufacturing and commercial interests of the country to war-measures injurious only to ourselves, thereby destroying and drying up the very sources of revenue, and in particular by the Orders in Council affecting in their operation our trade with neutral states.

That the consequences of these Orders are more particularly felt in the port of Liverpool, where, during the year 1807 (being immediately prior to the operation of the Orders in Council) 489 American vessels, independently of other neutral ships, were cleared out; and where, in the course of six months in the year 1809, when the effect of such Orders was understood to be suspended by negotiation 336 American vessels were cleared out; which ships were laden almost entirely with British manufactures, having afforded in their outfit profitable employment to great numbers of merchants, tradesmen, mechanics, and labourers of the town of Liverpool.

That in consequence of the Orders in Council of November, 1807, continued in certain of their provisions by another Order in Council of the 26th of April, 1809, the shipments from neutral states to this port are become very inconsiderable; and that in particular the merchants of the American states being, by local regulations of their own government, prevented, during the continuance of the Orders in Council, from importing, in return for their cargoes, the manufactures of this country, are compelled to draw bills of exchange for the proceeds of their shipments, which bills have been for some months last past at a discount in the United States of 15 to 20 per cent.; and are now nearly unsaleable at any price; a circumstance felt at the present time with particular pressure by this country, from its enhancing the price, and greatly diminishing the quantity, of grain and flour imported from America.

That whilst the direct effect of the Orders in Council has been to diminish and injure the revenues, commerce, and manufactures of these kingdoms, they have also compelled neutrals to rely upon their own

efforts for those articles which were before supplied by this country, and notoriously to establish manufactories of various kinds, which must eventually lead to an exclusion of British manufactures, and thereby render permanent those evils which are at present experienced.

That your petitioners cannot but contemplate with the most pointed sentiments of disapprobation, the system of a licensed trade with the enemy, by which a power of dispensing with the laws is vested in the minister for the time being, and has been exercised, as your petitioners humbly apprehend, to a most dangerous and alarming extent.

That the direct and immediate effect of such measures is the increase of the naval power of our enemies, the transferring the commerce of this country to hostile or foreign traders, and the encouragement of crimes which destroy all confidence amongst civilized states, and which, when limited in their effects to these realms, are punished with the most exemplary severity. Your petitioners therefore most humbly but confidently call upon your honourable House, to vindicate the national character, and to mark with due reprobation a system of intercourse, involving the breach of all moral obligation, highly dangerous to the ultimate safety of the country, and supported by perjury, forgery, and fraud.

Your petitioners humbly conceive, that these and many other evils would be done away by withdrawing the Orders in Council; that such a measure, by restoring a free intercourse between this country and neutral states, would relieve the nation in general, and the town of Liverpool in particular, from great and increasing distress; would open and restore to our manufacturers the most valuable markets which our country ever possessed; would encourage the shipments and importation of grain and flour, now so indispensably necessary to the supply of these islands; would again afford employment to the laborious part of the community, and would, as your petitioners are fully convinced, be found a speedy and substantial remedy for a great part of our present evils, and a security against those much greater calamities which appear to be rapidly approaching, and which your petitioners cannot contemplate without sentiments too alarming to be expressed.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray, that your honourable House will take this subject into your immediate consideration,

and will afford your petitioners such relief as your honourable House may in its wisdom think fit.

[Signed by 6662 persons.]

A similar petition to the House of Lords was presented by the Earl of Derby, signed by the same number of persons.

your petitioners humbly conceive, by tending in a degree to equalize the pressure of the times, will, at once, tranquilize the general feeling, and accelerate to this country the acquisition of the blessings of peace.

LIVERPOOL PETITION.*

Presented by Mr. Brougham.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Humble Petition of the Undersigned Inhabitants of the town of Liverpool.

Showeth,

That your Petitioners have been credibly informed, and do believe, that the Right Hon. George Rose did lately, in a conference between his Majesty's Chancellor of the Exchequer, and certain Master Manufacturers of the town of Birmingham, compare the situation of the people of England and France to that of two men holding their heads in a vessel of water, and trying which can longest endure the pain of suffocation.

That your petitioners cannot, without great alarm, hear of this type or comparison, as illustrating the effects of a war which his Majesty's ministers have, from time to time, promised to terminate by the subjugation and restraint of France.

That though the above-mentioned comparison too aptly typifies the condition of your petitioners, all whose means of livelihood are alarmingly curtailed by the events of war, and by the process of taxation, and many of whom are reduced to the extreme of want, it is by no means applicable to the Right Hon. George Rose, and divers others similarly circumstanced, who, by the emoluments of the offices which they hold under government, and the possessions of considerable pensions and salaries of sinecure places, are much at their ease, in the midst of public calamity.

That your petitioners do, therefore, pray your Honourable House to pass a Bill for appropriating, during the future continuance of the war, the salaries of all sinecure offices, and all unmerited and extravagant pensions to public purposes, which Bill

LIVERPOOL PETITION.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Humble Petition of the Undersigned Merchants, Traders, and other Inhabitants of the town of Liverpool,

Most humbly sheweth,

That it is not without the greatest reluctance, that your petitioners obtrude themselves again upon your Lordships' deliberations, your petitioners having so late, as the 27th day of April last, together with other inhabitants of the town of Liverpool, amounting in the whole to between six and seven thousand persons, laid before your Lordships their humble petition, entreating the interference of your Lordships for relieving the distresses which your petitioners, in common with the rest of the commercial and manufacturing parts of the country, sustain, by reason of the Orders in Council, of November, 1807, modified by that of April, 1809, affecting the trade of neutral states. But your petitioners most humbly trust for your Lordship's indulgence and pardon, when they state, that since such former petition, they have been apprised that his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, has issued a declaration, accompanied by an Order in Council, dated at Carlton House, the 21st day of April last, by which the interest of your petitioners are deeply affected, their expectation of relief disappointed, and the empire itself, in the humble judgment of your petitioners, placed in a situation of unexampled danger and alarm.

It cannot have escaped the vigilant attention of your Lordships to the concerns and interests of the country, that from the period when the Orders in Council, above referred to, began to operate, as well in their immediate effects, as in giving rise to the restrictive regulations of other states, the trade with neutrals has been greatly affected, and in particular the trade with the United States of America, which at

* This has been ludicrously called, the *Bucket Petition*.

other periods, even during the continuance of the war, had been carried on to a great extent, has gradually declined, and is at present nearly extinguished.—To what precise causes this is to be attributed, will appear from the numerous petitions on this subject on your Lordship's table, praying for relief;—from which, and from the consideration of the distressed state of the country, of the numerous mechanics and labourers out of employ, of the high price of provisions, and the gloomy prospect of an actual deficiency of the principal necessities of life—your petitioners were induced to flatter themselves that such Orders in Council would either be speedily withdrawn, or would be modified so as to afford this country in general that relief of which it stands so greatly in need.

But it is with sentiments of the bitterest disappointment, and deepest sorrow, that your petitioners now perceive from the tenor of the Declaration, and Order in Council of the 21st of April, that not only no immediate relief is intended to be given, but that his Majesty's present ministers have, by a solemn and national Act, precluded themselves from the power of affording such relief under any circumstances, or in any emergency, having made the continuance or non-continuance of the Orders in Council dependant not on the circumstances, or the interests of this country, not on the feelings of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, for the complaints or the sufferings of a loyal people; not on the wise and considerate interposition of either house of Parliament; but on the measures to be adopted by a hostile power, over whose councils this country has no controul.

Your Lordships will doubtless have already observed with astonishment and alarm, that by the whole tenor of the declaration of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, before referred to, the continuance or revocation of the Orders in Council is rendered dependant on the continuance or non-continuance of the decrees promulgated at Berlin and Milan, by the present Ruler of France; and that in declaring it to be the determination of his Royal Highness, still firmly to resist the effects intended to be produced by those decrees, such resistance must be virtually and substantially understood to consist in the maintaining the Orders in Council.

This appears to us not only the positive sense of such declaration, but to be the

sole inference arising from the expressed condition, that when the French decrees shall be formally and unconditionally repealed, the Orders in Council shall be revoked—and as a further confirmation of such construction, your petitioners are compelled to observe, that this determination to support and continue the Orders in Council, appears to them to have no references whatever to the inferior condition of this country, or the numerous petitions from the great trading and manufacturing towns of the kingdom for their repeal; but that such Orders in Council appear to be continued as a great measure of state policy, avowed in the eyes of the world, from which it is the determination of the British government on no occasion to recede, except on the conditions, in the declaration expressed, which we therefore presume cannot be withdrawn by his Majesty's present ministers, without humiliation and disgrace, and upon the maintenance of which they appear to us to have placed the decision of the great question—Whether we are to be at peace or war with the United States of America?

Equally painful and alarming must it be on the other hand to your Lordships, to observe, that by the express tenor of such declaration, no discretion or choice appears to be left to the ministers of this country, as to the non-repeal of the Orders in Council, in case the French government should revoke its decrees; but that the repeal of such Orders in Council follows of course, and not as the act of the British government, but as the act of the present Ruler of France.

The surprize and anxiety which your Lordships' petitioners, in common with all their fellow subjects, must feel at such an idea, are encreased by the consideration, that such decision of the French Ruler is not limited to any determinate time, but that it is in such declaration expressly provided, that if at any time hereafter the Berlin and Milan Decrees shall be repealed, that then the Orders in Council shall without any further order be wholly and absolutely revoked—by which it appears, that whatever alteration or circumstance may hereafter take place, in the internal condition or the public relations of this country, the continuance or non-continuance of the Orders in Council, of measures deeply affecting, either injuriously or beneficially the interest of these realms, is made to depend upon its most implacable Enemy, who will not fail to execute it in a manner

the most injurious to the prosperity, the most distressing to the condition, and the most fatal to the safety of the British empire.

It is impossible for your petitioners, consistently with the duty and allegiance they owe to their sovereign, to wait in silent suspense for the decision of a hostile power, on a subject so deeply affecting their dearest interests, involving not only the exercise of their various professions, the employment of their capital, and the support of themselves and their numerous families, but interfering with all those feelings of a British subject, which can teach him to look alone to his own Sovereign, and the two Houses of Parliament, acting in their executive and legislative capacities, for the enactment or execution of any measures, which, upon due deliberation, and the consideration of actual and present circumstances, may appear to be expedient—under these circumstances, yet more strongly felt—than expressed,—your petitioners resort to your Lordships as the hereditary guardians of the constitution, and the protectors of the honour and dignity and the safety of the realm, most humbly intreating that your Lordships will be pleased to take into your most serious consideration, this new and unexampled state of public affairs;—humbly trusting, that your Lordships will not fail to mark with due reprobation, the conduct of those ministers, who after having, by a series of ruinous and destructive measures, plunged the country into its present calamitous state, have now openly disqualified themselves from affording it relief, and submitting its dearest interests to the decision of a despotic enemy, and that your Lordships will finally be pleased to exert the high privileges with which you are invested by the constitution, in recommending to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, to call into his Council such persons as may be likely from their experience, their patriotism, and their virtues, to restore the prosperity, and protect the honour of the country.

PETITION OF THE PROTESTANT DISSENTING MINISTERS.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled :

The humble Petition of the undersigned,

being Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Three Denominations, residing in and about the Cities of London and Westminster,*

Showeth,

That your petitioners conceiving the right of worshipping God according to the dictates of their own consciences to be derived from the Author of their being, and confirmed by the Founder of their Christian faith, and therefore not to be subject to the controul of human authority, cannot but regard with deep concern those statutes which restrain and limit the exercise of this right, and impose conditions and penalties that seem to them as unjust in their principle, as they are injurious to the vital interests of true Religion.

That your petitioners consider those statutes as originally designed to guard against evils which no longer exist, and as expressive of sentiments with regard to the nature and extent of religious liberty which no longer prevail—at a period when the subjects of the British empire, however they may differ with regard to the principles of their religion, and their mode of professing it, concur in a cordial attachment to the family on the throne, and when enlightened views of religious liberty, and a corresponding liberality of spirit have been diffused among religious professors of all denominations.

That your petitioners, expressing their lively gratitude for the concessions made to their religious rights in the course of the present reign, earnestly but respectfully pray that every remaining Penal Statute, which extends its operation to the province of religion, may be repealed, and that whilst they conduct themselves as loyal, obedient, and peaceable subjects to the state, they in common with all their fellow-citizens, may be put in possession of complete religious freedom, and allowed to worship their Maker, and maintain their Christian profession, according to their own views, and their incumbent duty, without being subjected, under the sanction of law, to any penalties or disabilities, in consequence of their dissent from the established church.

* In our last number the resolutions of this meeting were inserted. This is the petition founded on the resolutions.—They afford an honourable contrast to Oxford and Cambridge.